

# AFNS Review

Compilation of top Air Force News Service stories

March 9, 1998

## U.S. forces on hold in Gulf

by Paul Stone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980283) — United Nations weapons inspectors may soon be returning to Iraq, but that doesn't mean U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf will begin packing their bags.

President Clinton has ordered U.S. forces to remain in the region at least until Iraq demonstrates compliance with the latest agreement reached Feb. 24 between Saddam Hussein and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Under the terms of the agreement, Iraq has agreed to provide immediate, unrestricted and unconditional access for U.N. weapons inspectors to all suspected sites in Iraq. This includes eight presidential palaces Saddam Hussein had declared off limits.

In announcing his acceptance of the general terms of the agreement, the president praised Annan's efforts, as well as the dedication of military forces.

"I want to commend each and every one of our men and women in uniform, and our coalition partners for their steadfastness," Clinton said. "Once again, we have seen that diplomacy must be backed by strength and resolve."

Although details of the plan are still being worked out, Clinton and members of his national security team expressed cautious optimism the agreement can work.

If the agreement holds, the president said, U.N. inspectors can achieve three crucial goals: find and destroy all of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons; find and destroy the missiles to deliver those weapons; and institute a system for long-term monitoring to ensure Iraq doesn't build more weapons of mass destruction.

"If the inspectors are allowed to

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inspect where and when they want, then they are the most effective tool we have to monitor Iraq's compliance with the commitment it made at the end of the Gulf War," Clinton said. He also warned Iraq that U.S. patience is growing thin.

"After two crises in the last four months, Iraq's failure to allow UNSCOM (U.N. Special Command) to do its job would be a serious, serious matter," Clinton said. "If Iraq fails to comply this time to provide immediate, unrestricted, unconditional access to the weapons inspectors, there will be serious consequences. The United States remains resolved and ready to secure by whatever means necessary Iraq's full compliance with its commitment to destroy its weapons of mass destruction."

U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf now number more than 30,000, including the recently arrived USS Guam Amphibious Readiness Group carrying 3,000 Marines. About 500 National Guardsmen and reservists may soon join the force there. President Clinton has approved Defense Secretary William Cohen's plan to call up the Guard and Reserve to help provide logistical and combat support services in the region.

## Agreement in hand, forces stay ready

by Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman  
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — With thousands of U.S. troops and hundreds of aircraft and missiles ready to strike, Iraq agreed Feb. 23 to let U.N. weapons inspectors have full access to all sites in that country.

Although U.S. officials gave cautious approval to the accord, deployed forces will not be rushing home. In fact, the build-up continues.

President Clinton signed an executive order Feb. 24 authorizing the call-up of 500 members of the National Guard and Reserve in support of operations in and around Southwest Asia under the presidential selected Reserve call-up authority.

For the Air Force, the Guard and Reserve contingents join 8,700 airmen and an assortment of more than 200 aircraft poised to launch should Iraq not abide by the inspection agreement. Defense officials said those forces will remain in place for the next round of inspections.

The president earlier praised the U.S. military for putting teeth into diplomacy.

"I'm proud of all of our men and women in uniform in the Gulf," Clinton said. "Once again we have seen that diplomacy backed by resolve and strength can have positive results for humanity."

He gave conditional support to the agreement that he said would give U.N. inspectors "immediate, unrestricted and unconditional access to any site they suspect may be hiding weapons of mass destruction or the means to make or deliver them."

He noted that if the agreement is fully implemented, "for the first time in seven years all of Iraq will be open to U.N. inspections, including many sites previously declared off limits. This would be an important step forward."

Now, he added, U.S. forces must stay on guard.

"We have to be watching very closely now to see not just what Iraq says, but what it does; not just stated commitments, but the actual compliance," he said. "Let there be no doubt, we remain committed to see that Saddam Hussein does not menace the world with weapons of mass destruction."

To keep watch over Iraq's actions, the United States plans to sustain its strike force indefinitely, according to Maj. Gen. Donald L. Peterson, Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"We've been doing this for seven years [since Desert Storm] at different levels," he said, "and unfortunately we have a lot of practice with how to do something like this."

He noted that while Iraq is the focus today, U.S. forces are also deployed at other potential flash points around the world such as Bosnia and South Korea.

"While we can do what we're doing for some time period," he said about the high operations tempo. "It's the pain or impact on our people we're concerned with."

While the United States has no plans to reduce its forces near Iraq in the near future, Peterson said the Air Force hopes that the situation will stabilize soon so the

service can begin "some kind of normal rotation" for its people and equipment.

He said the same operations tempo goals would apply for the built-up forces in Southwest Asia as apply to the rest of the service, especially limiting days away from home to no more than 120 days per year.

The general pointed to steps the overall Air Force has taken in the last year to reduce stress on airmen and their families:

- Reducing Air Force exercises by 10 percent,
- Reducing joint exercises by 15 percent,
- Reducing inspections, and
- Giving people seven to 14 days off when they return from deployments so they can be with their families and take care of things at home.

Peterson added that the Air Force owes a great debt to its Guard and Reserve people, the volunteer forces "represented in almost every mission we have." For example, he told how the reservists stood up a unit that helped Airborne Warning and Command System reduce their OPTEMPO.

"I'm proud of the men, women and families we have in the Air Force," Peterson said. "We say go, and they get there. When something like this comes up, they step into the aircraft, and they're proud to serve."

"There's no doubt in my mind we would not have an agreement signed with Iraq without the dedication of our joint and air expeditionary forces."

## Accelerated anthrax program to enhance force protection

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980288) — U.S. military people deployed to the Arabian Gulf region will soon receive their first anthrax vaccinations.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen announced March 3 his decision to accelerate already planned vaccinations against the biological warfare agent. This action was requested by Gen. Anthony Zinni, U.S. Central Command commander in chief, and recommended by Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is one of several force-protection measures for troops in the gulf region.

The vaccinations are expected to begin this month.

When the militarywide anthrax immunization plan was announced in December, Cohen specified that four conditions be met before vaccinations would begin. Work on each of these items for use by the U.S. Central Command is complete. The conditions are:

- Supplemental testing, consistent with Food and Drug Administration standards, to assure sterility, safety, potency and purity of the vaccine;
- Implementation of a system to fully track people who receive the anthrax vaccinations;
- Approval of appropriate operational plans to administer the immunizations and communications plans to inform military people of the overall program; and
- Review of health and medical issues of the program by an independent expert.

Immunization for U.S. troops is a prudent action, according to a Defense Department spokesman. The immunization program will consist of a series of six inoculations per service member over an 18-month period, followed by an annual booster.

Although protection levels increase as shots in the series are given, the entire six-shot series is required for full protection, as determined by the FDA.

"After a careful review, I have concluded that vaccination against anthrax is a safe, prudent force protection measure," Cohen said. He and Shelton have both started the anthrax vaccination program with their first shots.

As an additional force-protection measure, anthrax exposure can be treated with antibiotics before symptoms occur. The spokesman said that antibiotics are in place with forces in the region in sufficient quantities.

Force health-protection measures include education, health risk assessment and joint medical surveillance. Nuclear, chemical and biological, or NBC, defense is achieved through the detection equipment, protective apparel and post-exposure medical treatment procedures already in place in the gulf.

The United States has deployed the Biological Integrated Detection System, the Air Base/Port Biological Detection

## AFNS Review

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("Portal Shield") and the Interim Biological Agent Detector to the gulf. Additionally, every service person deploys with a full ensemble of NBC protective equipment.

U.S. forces in the gulf operate with forces from several other countries. While it is the responsibility of each of these countries to determine how they will protect their forces against chemical and biological threats, the spokesman said, "We will work with allies and coalition nations as they seek to meet their medical needs."

The United Kingdom also announced its own vaccination programs March 3. Canada has already announced its intention to vaccinate its forces in the gulf region.

## Global Hawk completes first flight

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS - 980276) — Global Hawk, the Department of Defense's newest reconnaissance aircraft, successfully flew for the first time at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Feb. 28.

Global Hawk air vehicle number one, a high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned air vehicle, took off from the Edwards' main runway at 7:43 a.m. PST and flew for 56 minutes. The UAV reached altitudes up to 32,000 feet before landing on the base's main runway.

With a 116-foot wingspan, Global Hawk navigated along a "bow tie" track within restricted air space. The entire mission, including the take-off and landing, was performed autonomously by the aircraft based on its mission plan. The Launch and Recovery Element of the system's ground segment continuously monitored the status of the flight.

The flight was the first of numerous airworthiness evaluation and payload demonstration flights planned. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is developing Global Hawk to provide military field commanders with a high-altitude, long-endurance system that can obtain high-resolution, near-real-time imagery of large geographic areas.

"Today's flight was an exceptional accomplishment for the Global Hawk team. This is a key milestone toward giving warfighters a powerful new

capability," said DARPA's program manager Air Force Col. Doug Carlson. "Not only did Global Hawk perform beautifully, but the successful flight demonstrated how government, military and contractor personnel can work together on a challenging development program. I am especially pleased with the excellent support we have received from the Edwards Air Force Base team, and I look forward to working with them as the program proceeds."

The new aircraft has been designed to operate with a range of 13,500 nautical miles, at altitudes up to 65,000 feet and with an endurance of 40 hours. During a typical reconnaissance mission, the aircraft can fly 3,000 miles to an area of interest, remain on station for 24 hours, survey an area the size of the state of Illinois (40,000 square nautical miles), and then return 3,000 miles to its operating base.

During a typical mission, a synthetic aperture radar/moving target indicator and electro-optical and infrared sensors onboard the aircraft can provide near-real-time imagery of the area of interest to the battlefield commander via worldwide satellite communication links and the system's ground segment.

Global Hawk air vehicle No. 1 has been located at Edwards Air Force Base since August. Air vehicle No. 2, which is

nearing completion, will be flown primarily to validate the performance of the system's sensors and communication systems; its testing will begin at Edwards later this year.

## Air Force general rocks the house

by Makita Weaver  
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — At first glance, Gen. George T. Babbitt, commander of Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, doesn't seem like your typical late-1950s rock-'n'-roller. Looking at his impeccable biography, it's hard to imagine the silver-haired general beating out surfer tunes in a rock-'n'-roll band.

However, during the March 1 Guest Artist Series performance presented by The United States Air Force Band in Washington, for the first time in more than 30 years Babbitt displayed the drumming skills that made him one of the charter members of the legendary rock-pop group, The Ventures.

As part of a tribute to the Golden Age of rock 'n' roll, the band played a set with The U.S. Air Force Orchestra.

"It was a joy to see General Babbitt reunited with The Ventures and for him to have the opportunity to play with them again after all these years," according to band commander and conductor Col. Lowell E. Graham,

For the Washington concert, Babbitt sat in on a rendition of the group's first big hit, "Walk, Don't Run." Unfortunately, then-teenager Babbitt wasn't on that recording, although he played it with The Ventures many times.

Babbitt became acquainted with The Ventures' founders Don Wilson and Bob Bogle while still a high-school student in





## Retirement benefits hold career incentives

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980257) — After 20 years' service in the military, airmen have many benefits to draw from, say Air Force officials. Personnel specialists agree that the following programs offer strong incentives to make the Air Force a career:

— Retired pay: Although the retirement benefit was changed once in 1980 and again in 1986, one of the most attractive incentives of a military career continues to be a noncontributory retirement system that provides an immediate annuity upon retirement that is annually adjusted for inflation.

Also, airmen were "grandfathered" under the retirement plan in effect when they initially entered military service. This provision protected the retirement plans of members already serving before each change in the 1980s was enacted. As always, Air Force leaders continue to stress preservation and stability as essential to maintaining the retention value of the military retirement system and keeping faith with airmen.

— Medical and dental benefits: As with the rest of the military, the Air Force medical service is adapting to changes brought about by a smaller military. TRICARE is the strategy to meet the health care needs of beneficiaries while adapting to shrinking infrastructure.

A partnership with civilian contractors, TRICARE provides a comprehensive, affordable, high-quality medical benefit, tapping both military and civilian sources of medical care. TRICARE is expected to be available in all of the continental United States by summer.

TRICARE offers three options to beneficiaries, allowing them greater choice than they previously had. TRICARE is not available to Medicare-eligible retirees (age 65 and older). The Department of Defense is actively working to craft a more comprehensive and sustainable health care benefit for all retirees, regardless of age.

As of Feb. 1, retirees and their family members, including those 65 and older, may enroll in the first dental insurance program for military retirees — the new TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. This features coverage for the most commonly needed dental services and offers affordable premiums.

— Commissary and exchange privileges: These benefits continue into retirement and extend the purchasing power of retired pay. Commissaries alone offer savings in excess of 29 percent compared with prices in commercial grocery stores. Together, exchanges and commissaries also provide retirees a continuing sense of community associated with military installations.

Continued eligibility for space-available travel and access to service activities such as golf courses, fitness centers, etc., are other benefits available to military retirees.

Personnel officials say these benefits — combined with competitive promotions, longevity increases, 30 days of annual leave, education programs, etc., while on active duty — provide a strong incentive for career-minded airmen to stay in for the long haul.

If you have a topic that could be addressed in People First, e-mail the suggestion to [people.first@dp.hq.af.mil](mailto:people.first@dp.hq.af.mil) or send a fax to (703) 695-7433 or DSN 225-7433.

Tacoma, Wash. During his short stint with the band, he played many clubs and parties in the local area, although he couldn't play full time because, as a teenager, he was too young to play at some establishments.

The general's claim to recording fame was "Cookies and Coke," which went to No. 1 with a bullet in Boise, Idaho.

However, Babbitt's youth and college plans derailed his short-lived musical career. As fate would have it, six months after his departure, The Ventures appeared on American Bandstand. By then, Babbitt was on track for his Air Force career, not reuniting with the band until the one-number Guest Artist Series appearance.

The Guest Artist Series began in 1966 as a vehicle to feature Washington's professional and amateur talent. Through the years it has grown to encompass local, national and international talent and has become one of the most popular concert series and time-honored traditions in the nation's capital.

## Last U-2R goes to depot for re-engineing

by Staff Sgt. James Brabenec  
9th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs  
BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.

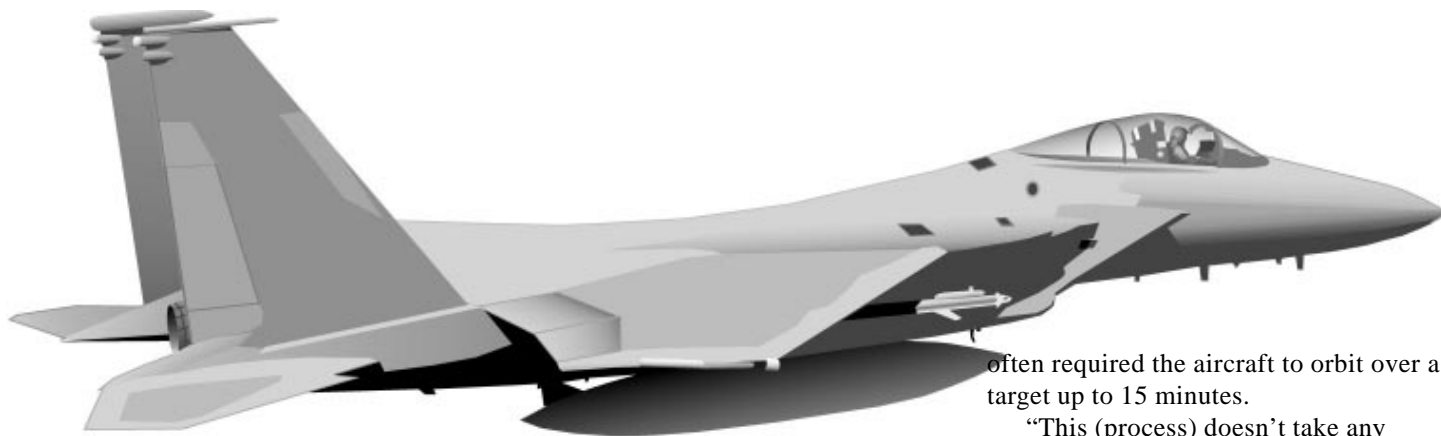
(AFNS - 980280) — Beale's last U-2R reconnaissance aircraft flew out recently to the Lockheed-Martin Skunk Works facility in Palmdale, Calif., where it will be upgraded to an S model.

The new U-2S model features an upgraded engine and provides better fuel economy and relieves some of the pilot workload, said Lt. Col. Mario Buda, 1st Reconnaissance Squadron commander.

"The S model simplifies engine management for the pilot," said Buda. "While the R model required pilots to pay attention for an engine over-temperature concern, the S model has an on-board computer to manage the engine system."

While the airframe will remain essentially the same, the lighter engine provides the U-2 with up-to-date technology, and improved reliability and maintainability.

"The new computer-controlled engine reduces maintenance effort and aircraft downtime," said Master Sgt. James Cox, 99th Reconnaissance Squadron propul-



sion element chief.

The new engines are in the same "engine family" as those used in F-16s, F-117s and B-1s. U-2S aircraft share about 88 percent of its parts with the standard production engine, making it much easier and cheaper to get replacement parts, said Fred Carmody, Lockheed Advanced Development Co. field operations manager.

The new engine and accessories are also about 1,300 pounds lighter than the previous version, allowing the U-2S to fly higher.

Beale's U-2 fleet began engine upgrades in 1994. The U-2R flew its last operational sortie from France early last year. The U-2R flew more than 30,000 operational missions. Beale operates U-2s from four operating locations worldwide. (Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)

## Rapid Targeting System improves warfighter's capability

by Art Haubold  
National Reconnaissance Office  
Public Affairs

CHANTILLY, Va. (AFNS - 980279) — "Sabre One, this is the Combined Air Operations Center, we have an armored column in your area. We're downloading video feed of location."

"Roger, CAOC. We have it."

The F-15E Strike Eagle turns and steers to the coordinates using pictures being provided to the cockpit to find the targets. The tanks run, but they can't hide from the overhead Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, which feeds pictures to the F-15 via the CAOC. Using these pictures, the crews find the tanks within

minutes and destroy them using laser-guided bombs.

Direct TV to the cockpit isn't science fiction anymore. Today, targeting footage is provided directly to the cockpits of Air Force F-15Es and Navy F/A-18s operating in Bosnia. The system is called the Rapid Targeting Capability and has been in Bosnia since Sept. 1996. It is primarily designed for aircraft going after mobile targets that aircrews operating on alert haven't had the opportunity to preplan.

The Rapid Targeting Capability can take video or images from reconnaissance platforms like the Predator, the U-2 Dragon Lady, or the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, and transpose them over an NRO satellite photo and then match them in real time to get precise target coordinates. The satellite photo provides a broader area context to the tactical reconnaissance aircraft's smaller snapshot, and provides more precise coordinates than can be provided from the tactical feed alone.

"We provided television to the cockpit to put bombs on target," said Maj. Alan Tucker, one of NRO's engineers who helped develop the system.

The process may start with a 10-by-10 nautical mile picture of the target fed to the cockpit, improved to 5-by-5, then to 1-by-1 nautical miles, and finally down to the view that provides the same heading as the approaching aircraft. These different pictures aid the pilot in finding the target and give him a perspective he wouldn't get from a tactical aircraft alone.

Before this system was in place, an aircraft might be vectored to its target by a forward air controller — a process that

often required the aircraft to orbit over a target up to 15 minutes.

"This (process) doesn't take any more than five minutes over the target area," said Maj. Stephen Schwartz, 334th Fighter Squadron pilot, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. Schwartz used the system while deployed in Bosnia.

Ideally, the pilot may never have to over fly the target area at all. During testing at Nellis AFB, Nev., aircrews used the system to go straight to targets and launch weapons from 4-6 miles away, according to Lt. Col. Bob Halverson, 4th Training Squadron operations officer at Seymour Johnson. Halverson helped test the Rapid Targeting Capability at Nellis in 1993.

It's also well beyond the technology used during the Scud hunts of Desert Storm.

"During Desert Storm, we didn't have technology like this. We were just bombing coordinates in the desert," said Capt. Gerry Downey, who flew EF-111Es during the conflict. Downey is currently the 334th FS weapons system officer and also used the system while deployed to Bosnia.

"With this system, we could take off and receive imagery from JSTARS that would show us where they think the target is," said Downey.

The system was developed through a combined effort by the National Reconnaissance Office, the Air Force Reconnaissance Program office at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, and the Naval Air Warfare Center at China Lake, Calif.

"We have made tremendous strides in getting the data out to the users," said Tucker. "The data is not only getting to them, it's far more useful to them because of our understanding and ability to exploit it."

"It's a hundred times better than talking to a forward air controller," said

Downey. "You know what they say — a picture is worth a thousand words." (Courtesy of Air Combat Command News Service)

## Change to cycle test may impact results

by Senior Master Sgt. Anita Bailey  
Office of the Surgeon General  
Public Affairs

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. (AFNS - 980287) — A recent change to the software program that operates the Air Force cycle ergometry test may impact men who previously passed but were in the lower percentile.

The adjustment to the software is designed to more accurately estimate the score an individual receives upon completion of the test.

"The potential exists for some men to not pass the test this year, when in previous years they were on the low end of the passing scale," said Col. Jim Fraser, chief of the preventive division, Air Force Medical Operations Agency. "However, if individuals are exercising regularly within their target heart rate zone, they should not have any problems.

"Commanders realize fitness directly impacts readiness and mission accomplishment," Fraser said. "Additionally, low-fit members have higher health risks and need to exercise to enhance quality of life.

"Experts are available at the base health and wellness centers to assist individuals to improve their fitness levels," he said. "The objective is to help our people improve their overall wellness to achieve the goal of a 'fit and healthy force.'"

This is the fifth year the Air Force has used the cycle ergometry test to measure fitness. Individuals who don't pass the first time will still have the same opportunities for retesting and further evaluation as were available in the past.

## DOD on alert against computer intrusions

by Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman  
Air Force News Service - 980245

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department takes seriously what its deputy secretary calls a "wake-up call"

against the threat of computer hackers.

Talking with reporters Feb. 25, John J. Hamre said the department was on alert after it detected over several weeks "unusual activity" as people tried to gain access to military computer systems.

Hamre said classified systems were secure. However, some unclassified systems were penetrated.

"All of our classified systems are protected by fire walls," he said. "There are people that try (to penetrate systems) on a daily basis or are just fooling around. But, nobody has gotten past the classified fire walls."

Meanwhile, the deputy secretary said, "We have purchased the software appropriate to start putting fire walls around our unclassified systems, to buy the monitoring systems that we need so we know someone is trying to break in.

"We are forming a computer forensics capability in the department so that we can follow up on these matters. We've forged very close working ties with the FBI and Justice Department. So, we're taking all the steps I think we need to take."

Asked about who could be hacking the systems, Hamre said it was possible there was no evil intent, just someone playing, but "in some cases could be much more serious."

In any case, Hamre added, this was "a serious wake-up call. We are a society and an economy that's increasingly dependent on computers — distributed systems. (Computers are) part of the power and the innovation in our economy.

"But it also opens a vulnerability. You have to take this as being serious for the implication that it holds for the future. In that sense we're taking (these incidents) very seriously."

## Air Force seeks college grads for civilian internships

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980246) — If you view change as a challenge, challenge as adventure, adventure as a lifestyle, then the U.S. Air Force may have the civilian career for you, according to personnel officials.

Applications are now being accepted through March 13 for the Air Force's PALACE Acquire Civilian Intern Pro-

gram. Through this program, the Air Force offers interns a career with pay, travel opportunities, and employee benefits.

PALACE Acquire targets college graduates and offers two to three years of formal and on-the-job training with performance-based annual promotions while training. The program is considered the civilian equivalent to officer training in the Air Force.

Interested candidates must be U.S. citizens and have a four-year undergraduate degree from an accredited college with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.45 on a 4.0 scale. Those who will complete their bachelor's degree by August may also apply.

Annual entry-level salary for interns is about \$26,000 and increases to \$38,500 or more on successful completion of the internship, depending on the position. Positions in the engineering field are also available and have different qualification requirements and a higher starting salary.

According to Nancy Clouser, chief of the recruiting division at the Air Force Personnel Center here, the Air Force provides excellent benefits for its employees.

"New employees start with two and a half weeks paid annual vacation, plus 10 paid holidays and 13 days of sick leave.

"Insurance benefits include low-cost life insurance and a choice of 15-20 health plans at the group rate," said Clouser. "The Air Force offers excellent educational assistance opportunities. Some employees may receive tuition assistance for off-duty education or compete for full-time college graduate degree opportunities."

Intern training positions are located at Air Force bases throughout the continental United States. Following training, interns have the opportunity to be placed at any one of the many exciting worldwide Air Force locations, depending on Air Force requirements.

The PALACE Acquire Program offers careers in the following fields:

- civil engineering
- communications-computer systems
- community planning
- education services
- family support
- financial management
- historian
- logistics

- manpower and quality
- museum
- personnel
- public relations
- safety and occupational health
- science and engineering
- security
- services such as child development, recreation and lodging
- training instructor

Interested candidates can call the AFPC at 1-800-558-1404 to request an application package or visit its web site at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/civcar/recruit> for more information. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

## Warfighters can find links to new technology in war, peace

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFNS - 980268) — Whether you're looking for a new way to repair stress fractures or the latest research on corrosion prevention, warfighters in the United States and abroad can find the experts sooner with a phone call to an Air Force hot line.

Operated by the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Tech Connect hot line is a tool for reaching out and touching many experts to find vital technology links, during peacetime and war.

The laboratory's wartime mission is to support the warfighters in finding technology solutions to enhance their field capabilities. Tech Connect is the lab's information broker, putting warfighters in direct contact with laboratory technical experts who may have novel solutions for their immediate needs.

"We rely on scientists and engineers in the technology directorates to provide expertise in solving customer problems," said Tim Sharp, chief of technology transfer for the laboratory. "However, we don't limit ourselves to just Air Force experts, and we'll help non-Air Force customers find information also."

From maintainers on the flightline to overseas logistics directors, Tech Connect has found information quickly for its customers. Customers report they save an average of 61 hours each time they use this service to conduct information searches.

During peacetime, this service enhances the flow of information within Air Force, and with the commercial sector, to make technology transfer

connections. As a one-stop, single point of entry for technology information, it operates for government, industry and academia customers 10 hours a day. It can provide answers within two weeks, even earlier if requested.

For wartime contingencies, the program also has secure telephone, electronic mail and computing capabilities for classified issues.

"In addition, industry and noncontingency related government requests would be assigned a lower priority to free up the staff to work any contingency requests," said Andrea Wright, Tech Connect chief.

During a military contingency or wartime, the hot line goes into daily 24-hour operations. Tech Connect also augments its regular staff with trained Air Force reservists so that answers are provided rapidly, normally in less than 24 hours.

The agency practices regularly to ensure it can meet any wartime or other contingency requirements.

"This week, we've started exercising our 'round-the-clock manning by supplementing our analysts with reserve officers," Wright said. "The exercise helps us make sure we can support Air Force operational technology requirements, should the need arise."

As part of the exercise, Tech Connect reservists met recently to refine the contingency plan, update the training manual and identify any outstanding issues.

As part of the hot line's contingency support during Bosnian peacekeeping operations, Tech Connect played a key role two years ago in putting an overseas engineer in touch with experts on nonlethal, airborne-delivered ordnance.

"He was looking for a 'bean bag' type of munition," said Becky Gentry, Tech Connect analyst. She immediately sent out an electronic mail query through TriNET, a tri-service, electronic mail network of scientists and engineers.

"With TriNET, we can quickly reach the Army and Navy, as well as Air Force technology experts, even for classified requests," Sharp said.

Gentry soon found related projects, information and contacts from a variety of sources, including the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Depart-

ment of Energy, the U.S. Army, and even Air Force Materiel Command's history office. She also found 17 professional journal articles in the Air Force Research Lab's technical library and 11 abstracts in a subscription database for business information. She forwarded her findings to the customer, Maj. Andy Keipert, a U.S. Air Force exchange engineer in Germany at the time.

"Thanks to Tech Connect, the USAF is truly a quality force," Keipert wrote Gentry.

Another Air Force officer stationed overseas called Tech Connect with an immediate need to track high-priority items shipped on pallets from the United States to Bosnia. An analyst immediately informed him the Air Mobility Command often uses the Global Transportation Network for in-transit visibility. The analyst also provided a point of contact at Scott AFB, Ill.

An Air Combat Command civil engineering unit recently asked for help replacing earthen berms used at their firing range to catch bullets. They wanted a more environmentally friendly system. Tech Connect analysts worked the TriNET network to find contacts at Eglin AFB, Fla., and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn. These contacts provided the caller with an industry lead for a rubber bullet trap and another lead at the Picatinny Arsenal where the Army is using recyclable bullet traps.

Whether in the United States or deployed around the world, military warfighters, scientists, engineers and others can contact Tech Connect at 1-800-203-6451 or DSN 986-9030 (send faxes to 937-255-2329 and e-mail to [aftecon@afrl.af.mil](mailto:aftecon@afrl.af.mil)). To make a classified request, call or e-mail using these unsecured methods to receive more instructions. Visit the Tech Connect web site at <http://www.afrl.af.mil> (click on "Technology Transfer" and then "Tech Connect").

## TRICARE Prime moves with you

by 1st Lt. Stephen Thompson  
Wilford Hall Medical Center  
Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980263) — TRICARE Prime enrollees moving from one TRICARE region to another now take



their enrollment with them.

This is not new to active-duty family members, who had been using portability since last July, but now all other Prime enrollees can do the same.

Portability, the ability to transfer enrollment from one region to another, allows two changes a year for Prime enrollees other than active-duty family members, as long as the second transfer is back to the original region. Active-duty family members have no limit on the number of times they may transfer.

TRICARE enrollees moving from one region to another should stay enrolled in the region they are leaving and then, after arriving to the new region, stop by or call the TRICARE Service Center to transfer their enrollment.

If enrollees are paying TRICARE Prime enrollment fees on a quarterly basis, the payment must be current to transfer enrollment. Transfer to the new region is effective as soon as enrollees sign and return enrollment application papers to the new TRICARE Service Center.

If beneficiaries are moving to a region in which TRICARE is not available yet, they may choose to disenroll prior to leaving, in which case they will be covered by TRICARE Standard or disenrolled after completing their move. If beneficiaries choose to stay enrolled and require nonemergent civilian health care without prior authorization while en route to a region with or without TRICARE, they will pay more out-of-pocket expense under what is called the "point-of-service" provision of TRICARE Prime. Active-duty members are covered for health care by their service branch. In emergency situations while traveling, Prime enrollees do not need prior authorization and should proceed to the nearest hospital for treatment. The only requirement is after receiving care contact your provider within 24 hours and report the incident.

If enrollees have an illness while en route and wish to seek advice on whether they need to seek medical attention, contact the Health Care Information Line at 1-800-611-2875. The Health Care Information Line

allows enrollees to talk to a nurse who will help assess their condition and recommend appropriate care.

More information on portability can be found at your nearest TRICARE Service Center.

## Air Force approves renaming of Falcon Air Force Base

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS - 980286) — The Air Force has approved renaming Falcon Air Force Base, Colo. It will be named Schriever Air Force Base in honor of Gen. Bernard A. Schriever. Schriever pioneered the development of the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile programs and is recognized as "the father of the U.S. Air Force's space and missile program."

Announcing the decision, Gen. Howell M. Estes III, commander of Air Force Space Command, said, "Renaming Falcon in honor of General Schriever's pioneering work in the space field is clearly the right thing to do. He has unquestionably earned this honor and the time is right to recognize one of our space pioneers."

Ground was broken for Falcon May

17, 1983, and the base was named after the nearby community of Falcon. The base is the home to the 50th Space Wing, the Joint National Test Facility and the Space Warfare Center (including the Space Battlelab).

The 50th Space Wing is the world's premier satellite command and control wing. It includes 20 units at 24 locations around the globe and is responsible for the day-to-day on-orbit command, control, operations and maintenance of more than 66 of the nation's surveillance, weather, navigation and communications satellites.

In June 1954, then Brigadier General Schriever assumed responsibility for the ICBM program as commander of the Air Research and Development Command's Western Development Division in Inglewood, Calif. In April 1959, he was named commander of ARDC. In partnership with the NASA, he began transforming Atlas and Titan missiles into reliable launching systems for sending man into space in the Mercury and Gemini programs. Schriever retired in April 1966.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the renaming will be announced at a later date. (Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)

## Air Force Core Competencies

- Air and Space Superiority
- Global Attack
- Rapid Global Mobility
- Precision Engagement
- Information Superiority
- Agile Combat Support

*"Speed, flexibility and the global nature of its reach and perspective distinguish the Air Force's execution of its core competencies."*